

### **Champion Adolescent Literacy - Who Named America Youth Education**

Today, people across the country know little about where they live, or stories of sacrifice made for future generations. In response to this national crisis, the knowledge strategy *Bring Home The Spirit of History* in your town is working to reverse the decline of youth literacy in math, science, and humanities (K-12).

**It begins with the question, "Who Named America?" to energize the thirst for knowledge.** Hint: 2007 marked the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary worldwide of naming the continents of America in earth science at the beginning of the 21st century. *It's time to celebrate!*

**The word "America" was born in the human spirit of ingenuity in 1507**, when cartographer Martin Waldseemuller printed the globe map that named America, South and North, at Ville St. Die, France. The designation "America" first appeared on the area we now call Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. The name was created to honor the Italian astronomer-navigator Amerigo Vespucci for his conclusions in math that approximately measured the earth's circumference. The first Waldseemuller globe map marked a milestone for humanity to depict a new continent and Western ocean (the Pacific), using the then-newest technology of the printing press. It re-awakened the imagination of Europeans and energized a thirst for 2000+ years of math, geography, and new explorations.

**Now, two projections of Earth offer youth the framework, of Waldseemuller's 15<sup>th</sup> Century globe map and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century photo of Earth-from-Space, for understanding 500 years in history.** This little known story is the key to unlock local windows to worldwide learning, and share by celebrating the birth of the American identity – *so we are not a community, nation, or hemisphere of strangers.*

**Our gift of literacy to youth is this "Who Named America?" story to develop thinking to:**